

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CULBERSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF VALERIE C. BECKLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate African American History Month, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Valerie Beckley, a resident of my community who recently passed away. Ms. Beckley was a daughter, a wife, a mother, an avid churchgoer, and a dear friend to many. She was a longstanding and active member of the Curey Tercentenary African American Episcopal Church.

Valerie and her family lived on the west side of Chicago during her formative years. One can say that they were pioneers of sorts. They were some of the first African Americans to live in their area. Valerie was one of the first 100 black students to integrate Austin High School in the 1960s. Even as a child, Valerie displayed exceptional leadership, and was the first black female chosen to become the captain of both the girls volleyball and basketball teams at Austin High School. Valerie grew up in a close, nurturing and bonded family formed by her parents—Mr. Larry and Mrs. Ollie Mae Mitchell.

Valerie attended and obtained a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Roosevelt University and, later on, a master's degree in Social Work from Loyola University.

On September 11, 1976, Valerie married Jerome Beckley, Junior, and they were blessed with two beautiful children—Shakir and Kamaria.

In 1979, Valerie became President and CEO of her family's company, the Lawndale Paper Supply, which was the only paper and janitorial wholesale supply company on the west side of Chicago. Here she honed her management and marketing skills and implemented both long- and short-range goals.

In 1986, Valerie became associated with the other love of her life, the Sickie Cell Disease Association of Illinois. Valerie assumed the role of camp director of the Bright Horizons Summer Camp. Later, she became a pro-

gram specialist, and in short order, she became totally immersed in the plight of people affected by sickle cell disease.

In 2002, when Howard Anderson—the founder and president of the Sickie Cell Disease Association of Illinois—decided to retire, he stated that he could find no better person to take over as president, and she did, devoting the rest of her life providing aid and comfort to sickle cell patients, raising money for services and working continuously to try and help find a cure for this dreadful disease.

For most of her 58 years on this Earth, Valerie C. Beckley's life was driven by her compassion to serve the marginalized, the underserved and the misrepresented. She became a dedicated leader and advocate whose passion for the welfare of others has helped numerous families in Chicago, the State of Illinois and within the broader context of the African Diaspora.

Mr. Speaker, Valerie represented to all of us who knew her the fact that one can give of oneself and not tire. She gave totally of herself to the end of her life, to the end of time for the benefit of others.

We all say thank you, Valerie.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BLUE DOGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor tonight with my fellow Blue Dogs, and we were just going to make some remarks and talk about the Blue Dogs' concern with fiscal responsibility in previous Congresses and in Congresses going forward.

Over the long haul, the Federal budget has been in a downward spiral with the national debt growing faster than the economy. With this grim fiscal outlook, it is more important than ever that Congress and the administration work together in a bipartisan manner to address the needs for long-term fiscal sustainability.

□ 2000

Back in this 1990s, under the administration of Bill Clinton and with the cooperation of the Congress led by the Blue Dog Coalition, PAYGO rules were put into statute, put into law that required that the Congress of the United States pay for that which they wished to spend. So no new spending could be appropriated and spent without the au-

thor or the party or the group that wanted to propose new spending finding a means or a place to cover the cost.

About 8 years ago, the PAYGO rules were abolished out of statute, and since that time and in the period of 8 years, the Government Accounting Office in the projections for 10 years out showed that the budget was estimated to have a surplus of \$5.5 trillion in the next 10 years. As I stand here today with my colleagues, we are now projecting an excess of \$10 trillion deficit. That's a \$15.5 trillion swing.

And if you actually looked at government accounting, or if you looked at accrual accounting rather than government accounting, you will find that—those of you that are in business out in this country will know that a \$56 trillion deficit projected is the real number.

Because of the deficits that exist in so many programs, entitlements and others, we have spun ourselves or spent ourselves into a hole that will take us quite a while to climb out of.

I have one grandson. His name is Jack, and he's 2½ years old. For Christmas, I got one of those video frames that changes the pictures out. And it is one of the greatest things that my family could have given me because Jack's there every day to remind me of the reason why I need to be here, why the Blue Dogs have continued their attack on the budget, why they have continued the march and the drumbeat of PAYGO and fiscal responsibility when neither side of our Congress would face up to the facts.

If in fact we are to leave them a good world, we need to face up, just like every American does, to the bills that confront us; and we can't spend more than we take in. We need to, as was done back in the 1990s, go back to statutory PAYGO, live within our means, make sure we have the money to pay for those things which are good for our country—not squander the future for our children and our grandchildren—but to make sure that their future has a potential to be a bright one, as mine was, because of my parents' and my grandparents' efforts during their time.

I would like to ask my friend, Congressman BARON HILL, to make a few comments.

Mr. HILL. I thank my friend from Louisiana for yielding me this dedicated time.

Fourteen days ago, Mr. Speaker, Barack Obama became President of the United States. And listening to some of my colleagues earlier in the evening, you would have thought by listening to them that the \$10 trillion deficit that we're now facing was created by President Obama within the last 14 days. And we all know that that is not true.

As a matter of fact, the largest budget deficits that we've ever had have, quite frankly, come under the presidencies of three Republican presidents: one in the 1980s, one in the 1990s, and this last President that we've had for the last 8 years.

And the Blue Dogs have the special hour here today, and for years we have been coming to this microphone to talk about the dangers to the long-term economy by driving up these deficits. And we have had a day of a reckoning that happened several months ago that, in part, was caused by wasteful spending and deficit spending. What we have been warning this Congress about for many years is that if we do not get a fix on our national deficit, it is going to have a devastating effect upon our economy.

Now here we are standing before the American people telling the American people that that day has arrived.

Now, in totality, it was not the fault of the Federal budget deficit. There were a lot of things that were going on with the financial markets that were no good, but here we are trying to figure out what to do next.

Now, the Blue Dogs did something that was extraordinary, or at least most of the Blue Dogs—not all of the Blue Dogs—but many of the Blue Dogs felt like that this economy was in such dire straits that we had to forego the disciplines that we have practiced for many, many years. In light of the fact that our economy was tanking, many of us felt like we should borrow more money in order to stimulate the economy.

But in the process of doing that, we have had ongoing negotiations with the folks in the Obama administration that while many of us were willing to suspend our feelings about fiscal discipline in order to jump start the economy, that somewhere down the line very soon, as a matter of fact, that we had to implement new PAYGO rules in order to get a handle on this spiraling budget deficit that is out of control.

Now, it's going to take some time to climb out of the hole that we find ourselves in after 8 years of the Bush administration. But we must start now to impose fiscal discipline on the Federal Government so that our children and grandchildren do not bear the burden of our debts.

Blue Dogs know that we need to work quickly to put budget enforcement tools, like statutory PAYGO, in place so that we can begin paying down the national debt that's crippling our economy and putting future generations of Americans in jeopardy. This is why we have been working with our leadership in the House, as well as newly appointed Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag, to make sure that we put our country back on a path to fiscal responsibility and economic sustainability.

Now just recently, at the Blue Dogs' asking, Dr. Orszag recently sent a letter to the House leaders stating the President's support for a return to PAYGO budgeting: "Moving forward we need to return to the fiscal responsibility and pay-as-you-go budgeting that we had in the 1990s for all non-emergency measures. The President and his economic team look forward"—

this is not me reading my words; this is Dr. Orszag saying this, "The President and his economic team look forward to working with Congress to develop budget enforcement rules that are based on the tools that helped create the surpluses of a decade ago. Putting the country back on the path of fiscal responsibility will mean tough choices and difficult trade-offs, but for the long-term health of our economy, the President believes that they must be made."

That letter was sent to the leaders of this Congress at the request of the Blue Dogs who have been consistently and perpetually making sure, Madam Speaker, that this Congress get its fiscal house in order.

President Obama has been very clear about his intentions to clean up the Federal budget, cut out wasteful spending, reinstitute pay-as-you-go budgeting, and address the long-term fiscal challenges facing the country. As a strong, moderating force within the House of Representatives, we look forward to continuing work with the President and others in Congress to put forward a plan for real fiscal reform over the long term.

The bottom line is that our country is maintaining an unsustainable level of debt that is threatening not only our economy, but our national security and the quality of life of every single American. We have to do something about it now, and the Blue Dogs stand ready to make the difficult decisions necessary to reverse the out-of-control spending and reckless fiscal policies of the last 8 years, not the last 2 weeks.

And so, Madam Speaker, the Blue Dogs look forward to working with this President and working with the leadership of this Congress to make sure that after we've done the stimulus that we start the process of getting our fiscal house in order by paying pay-as-you-go statutory PAYGO rules.

With that, I yield back to my good friend from Florida, ALAN BOYD, who's been a stalwart champion in this regard as the leader of the Blue Dogs for the last 2 years. We welcome his remarks here this evening.

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, thank you. I thank my friends, my friend from Indiana, BARON HILL, and from Louisiana, CHARLIE MELANCON, both who are current leaders of the 51-strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, a group which has spent the last 12 or 14 years in this Congress touting fiscal responsibility and trying to continuously take the message to the American people that the United States Government, the United States Congress, should act just like our families and our small businesses and our local governments do, and that is we should act responsibly when it comes to spending our money and how we collect and spend our money.

I think most Americans, most people watching these proceedings here tonight, understand that 8 years ago in

early 2001 at the end of President Clinton's administration that this country's government stood in great shape with a balanced budget and surpluses—as Congressman HILL and Congressman MELANCON have talked about—as far as the eye could see with an opportunity to do many things in terms of reducing taxes and paying down debt and fixing some long-term entitlement program challenges that we have.

The Congress and the administration in the coming years after 2001 passed on that opportunity and instead led us down a path of fiscal irresponsibility where we have continually spent, borrowed, and spent and told the American people they could have anything they wanted and they didn't have to pay for it.

Now, the chickens, so to speak, have come home to roost; and you are beginning to see the results of this horrible fiscal policy, economic policy, of the last 8 years.

Some would say that because we're in a recession now is not the time to worry about the consequences of government spending. Madam Speaker, I and my Blue Dog colleagues would argue the exact opposite—that now is exactly the time to address the fiscal situation that we as a country are facing.

We have an opportunity under new leadership, under the leadership of President Obama, to tackle the problem in a multi-faceted manner and recommit not only to stimulating and jump starting and getting our economy going again, but also to put in place the tools that we need as a Nation to have fiscal discipline in the future and lead us back toward fiscal responsibility, a balanced budget, and establish ourselves again as the economic, military, and political leader of the world.

My friends, Mr. MELANCON and Mr. HILL, have talked about PAYGO and the history of PAYGO; and, yes, it was, it was a tool that was used in the 1990s to get us into that position where we had surpluses and we were balancing the budgets and we were acting responsibly. Those tools were allowed to expire in 2002. And that's when everything kind of ran amok and we began to spend, spend, spend, we reduced revenue base; and as a result, we went overseas to borrow the money. And now, instead of a \$5 trillion national debt, we've got over a \$10 trillion national debt.

In this fiscal year, Madam Speaker, this Nation, this government, will sustain a \$1 trillion-plus deficit in its budget, \$1 trillion-plus deficit. And that's unheard of. That's like 6 or 7 percent of the gross domestic product of this country that we're going overseas to borrow, mortgaging the future of our children to run the operations of this government.

And some of us believe that's irresponsible, it's unethical, immoral.

Now, what do we do? We have spent years and years of passing the buck on these issues, but now is the time to

stop passing the buck and address these issues and confront them head on.

There are a couple of specific pieces of legislation that I would like our viewers to know about.

One is a bill that's sponsored—the two primary sponsors are Congressman JIM COOPER, who is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition from Tennessee, Democrat, and Congressman FRANK WOLF from Virginia, a Republican. It's called the SAFE Commission Act.

□ 2015

This particular piece of legislation offers solutions to place the U.S. Government on a course to ensure the solvency of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid for the coming century.

The SAFE Commission creates a non-partisan, 16-member commission to examine all areas of Federal spending and revenue, including entitlement spending. The two primary entitlement programs, as you know, are Social Security and Medicare. This bill has real teeth. Once it passes, it will require that Congress vote on the legislation that comes out of the recommendations of the commission within 90 days.

This country needs something like this because Congress has shown an inability—certainly shows it doesn't have the will—to address these challenges head-on otherwise.

Our sustainability challenges are not new. Now, I think most Americans understand kind of the lay of the land here, what happened, where we were in 2000 and 2001 in terms of our government and its financial situation versus now, and there's been a lot of angst and polarization around party lines, and it just hasn't worked very well for the last 6 or 8 years.

But Madam Speaker, the new President, President Obama, and I think many of us in the majority here in the House are offering our hand of bipartisanship across that aisle, to work together with members of the minority party in tackling these issues because they're not Democratic and Republican issues. These are not problems that one party or the other can take sole ownership of, but in solving them, we have to reach across the aisle and develop bipartisan solutions.

President Obama has taken a very solid step, in my feeling, toward putting our country on the right path by the recent announcement of a fiscal summit in the near future. The fiscal summit will be headed up obviously by his economic team, Dr. Orszag, the new OMB director, and others and so we look forward to participating in that summit and are hopeful that out of that summit will come some very solid ideas that the President can then advance and work with the Congress in putting into law.

Madam Speaker, we've got some very serious challenges as a Nation in front of us. I have been in legislative politics for 20 years, not nearly as long as some of the other folks who serve in this

body, but I've never seen the challenges and the problems faced so dear.

And we can all agree that if our kids are to have any kind of future that we have to figure out a way to give them the good standard of living, and we need to fix our budget problems, and we need to fix them quickly, and we need to focus on stimulating the economy, but also, we need to focus on the long-term fiscal discipline and restoring commonsense budgeting and commonsense fiscal management to the operation of this government.

I want to thank my friend Mr. MELANCON from Louisiana for his leadership in the Blue Dogs, for his leadership on the issues of fiscal responsibility, and also for allowing me a few moments here to come speak to the Nation.

Mr. MELANCON. Thank you, Congressman BOYD, my friend from Florida.

You know, one of the ironies is that some four-and-a-half years ago, or five-and-a-half years ago now when I made the decision to run for the vacated seat in the Third District of Louisiana, which is of course the coastal district that was hit by both Katrina and Rita and then subsequently this past year by Gustav and Ike, we have a lot of foreigners showing up on the shores of Louisiana these days. I ran, of course. People referred to Democrats as tax-and-spend Democrats.

One place that I always thought that I had some relationship to Republicans was in fiscal matters, and ironically after getting here and finding out the situation of our deficit and its continuing to grow. I've learned too that we as Democrats or my predecessors as Democrats may have been tax and spend, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will go down in history I believe as borrow and spend. You can't continue to print money and continue to elevate the debt on this country.

And particularly when you look at the debt of this country as we stand here today, in 8 years this deficit has grown to a size that is larger than all the cumulative deficits for all administrations from George Washington to the start 8 years ago. That's amazing.

The fourth largest item in our budget is the interest that we pay on the money that we borrow. Forty percent of the debt that we owe, the people that hold the treasuries and the bonds for this country's future are held by China. I wonder why we're so nice to our friends in China.

So, as we move forward, we need to look at a fiscal policy, but we also in a time that is unparalleled, we have to be looking at what do we do to preserve the economy.

This bill, as we've talked about that's presently moving through the Congress, is not a perfect bill. I, in fact, voted for the substitute presented by the Republicans. I don't know that I can agree with either of the bills as being a perfect bill, and no one, be-

cause of the nature of the animal we're dealing with, can say that the problems will be solved.

If you go back to 1929 when the market collapsed, 2 years later Roosevelt was elected. Between that time, the Congress and the administration in Washington said the markets will correct themselves; we need not do anything. Roosevelt came into office, started the CCC, the WPA. People talk about socialized government. That was probably as close as you will get to it. Checks were paid to people for work that they did, but they managed to put food on the table, however scarce. They managed to have a roof over their head, to clothe their children, to be able to continue going forward. It was not a glorious time. It was one of the blackest times in our history.

But by—I hate to say this—by coincidence a law came toward the end of the 1930s, and as a manufacturing country we got our economy going back. And then after World War II we got out of that, laws were passed by this Congress, enacted by this Congress, signed into law by the President that had preceded us that would have protected America and America's economy, had all the regulatory agencies been doing the job that they were supposed to have been doing through these periods of time.

There's been a movement towards deregulation, and I'm for deregulation, but when you put together people and money you breed greed. And what we have caused here was the greed of people and not just in this country. We are faced with a worldwide situation, one that resembles what happened in the period of 1929 into the 1930s.

And after listening to my parents through the years, talking with my grandparents as I grew up, I don't think that I want to be labeled a person who did nothing, a person who said the market will correct itself, a person who said they will fend for themselves, a person who leaves a debt that my children and grandchildren and my friend's children and grandchildren will never ever be able to repay if we don't start the march in the right direction this day, in this Congress, in this administration, in this city, in this great country.

Mr. BOYD. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. MELANCON. Yes, I will.

Mr. BOYD. I know that the gentleman and our viewers understand that America is the richest country on the face of the earth. America a few years ago, with 5 percent of the world's population, controlled 25 percent of the world's wealth. But 8 years ago we decided we didn't want to pay our own bills. That was the effect of those decisions that were made and that we would go into the capital markets to borrow that money. That's not the way our economic model is set up, and that's the mindset that we really have to change.

Now it's my belief that President Obama, whom I think many of us ad-

mire because he's going to lead us through this, he understands what you have to do. Some tough decisions have to be made. He's been given a very tough hand to play with the economic and fiscal situation of this country at the moment, but I believe that all the Nation wishes him well, and we want to work with him to get us back on the right path and fiscal responsibility.

Let's do some hard, tough work on Medicare and Social Security. We've known for years that those programs have to be reformed, that insolvency for these programs is right around the corner, and we have punted that ball down the field for many years now. He knows you can't do that anymore, and he's making the right calls and getting the right people together and getting the right team in place to move forward with this and get it done right.

So I want to thank my friend for getting this hour for us to speak for a few minutes about fiscal issues in the country and our economic situation.

Mr. MELANCON. I thank my friend from Florida, and in closing, let me just say there's an expression that you will hear in Washington, and it's called kicking the can down the street and refers to one party or another party or one administration or another administration or one politician or another politician taking the issue and just moving it down the road and trying to avoid having to face the hard issue of picking it up and resolving what the issues need to be.

We can no longer, as a government of this great country, kick the can down the road. We need to pick it up. We need to face the issues. We need to do it in a bipartisan way. We need to go back to regular order, take bills the way they used to be, where people debated them, they negotiated them. And a good deal or good bill has always been, in my mind, one where both parties either leave unhappy or both parties leave happy. When one party leaves happy and the other one isn't, then it's not a good deal, and it particularly is not a good deal for the great American citizens that put up with what has gone on through the decades.

We need to reform the way we do our business by going back to regular order, by making sure that there's transparency in our government, that people that are in this body have an opportunity to participate in the legislative process and pass bills that can muster votes from both sides of the aisle. Then we can say we're starting to act like American citizens and American politicians should.

So with that, Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity for the Blue Dog Coalition to be here tonight.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a funeral in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCCOTTER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, February 10.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, February 10.

Mr. CULBERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CHAFFETZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 4, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

347. A letter from the Assistant Inspector General Communications and Congressional Liaison, Department of Defense, transmitting the Inspector General's report on the physical security of Department of Defense installations, pursuant to Section 357 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

348. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Removal of North Korea from the List of Terrorist Countries [DFARS Case 2008-D036] (RIN: 0750-AG18) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

349. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; List of Firms Owned or Controlled by the Government of a Terrorist Country

(DFARS Case 2008-D025) (RIN: 0750-AG22) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

350. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; U.S. -International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol [DFARS Case 2004-D003] (RIN: 0750-AF98) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

351. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; DoD Law of War Program [DFARS Case 2006-D035] (RIN: 0750-AF82) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

352. A letter from the Directors of HOPE for Homeowners Program, Board of Directors of HOPE for Homeowners Program, transmitting the Board's final rule — HOPE for Homeowners Program: Program Regulations: Upfront Payment Incentive for Subordinate Mortgage Lien Holders and Other Program Changes [Docket No.: B-2009-F-03] (RIN: 2580-AA01) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

353. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — TARP Conflicts of Interest (RIN: 1505-AC05) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

354. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — The Low-Income Definition (RIN: 3133-AC98) received January 26, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

355. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Temporary Exemptions for Eligible Credit Default Swaps to Facilitate Operation of Central Counterparties to Clear and Settle Credit Default Swaps [Release Nos.: 33-8999; 34-59246; 39-2549; File No. S7-02-09] (RIN: 3235-AK26) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

356. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Investing in Economically Targeted Investments (RIN: 1210-AB29) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

357. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties Under ERISA Section 502(c)(4) (RIN: 1210-AB24) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

358. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interpretive Bulletin Relating to Exercise of Shareholder Rights (RIN: 1210-AB28) received January 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

359. A letter from the Deputy Director for Operations, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Methods for Computing Withdrawal Liability; Reallocation Liability